

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It is hard to believe how fast this school year has gone by! Soon, over four hundred eighth grade students will be moving on to exciting and challenging years in high school as they prepare for college and career success. Our seventh grade students will return to Illing in September as upper classmen who we will count on to be positive role models to incoming students from Bennet Academy. It has been an honor and a pleasure to get to know each and every student at Illing, and I have enjoyed watching them mature into amazing young adults. I truly wish each and every student a lifetime filled with health, happiness, hope, love and success.

I hope that all students and their families enjoy these last few weeks at Illing and all of the exciting end of year events and ceremonies that will take place. I wish you all a safe and restful summer and truly hope that all of our eighth grade students keep in touch with the proud teachers and staff members here at Illing who will miss them all very much.

HOME ACCESS IS
AVAILABLE TO ALL
STUDENTS!

HAC ALLOWS PARENTS
& STUDENTS TO ACCESS
GRADES

ASSIGNMENTS

PROGRESS REPORTS

AND ATTENDANCE.

Call 860-647-5085 for
assistance if needed.



Heading Towards Summer

June 22nd is the last day of school!





TEAM SYRACUSE

Spring has sprung on Team Syracuse and there is a new energy in the air! We are well into the last marking period of the school year and our students continue to rise to the challenge of increased rigor and classroom expectations as we prepare them to move forward to their high school of choice. It is more important now than ever for homework and classwork to be completed and for all assignments to be handed in, in a timely manner. Before we know it, the year will be ending and we will be thinking about summer, but there is still much left to do. Please continue to remind students to carry planners and Chromebooks, as well as any other necessary school supplies (pens and pencils are still needed every day!). Please use the Home Access Center (and encourage your students to do the same) to monitor grades and progress. Homework club continues to run every Monday and Thursday on team, while school-wide homework club runs every morning before school and after school on Monday and Wednesday, both in the Media Center. All team teachers are available to work with individual students daily by appointment. Finally, our year has been enhanced by the 2 student teachers from the University of Connecticut who have been with us on team - Ms. Grove teaching Math with Mrs. Gay and Ms. Collins teaching Science with Mr. Burkhardt. The lives of all who have encountered them have been enriched by their enthusiasm and dedication, and we will miss them as they graduate and move forward with their careers. As always, please keep the lines of communication open with us in whatever manner is most convenient to you. We are available by telephone, email, text, or in person by appointment, and we know that together, with you, we can provide each of our students with the most positive school experience possible.



TEAM CENTRAL

Army Warrior Ethos

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

Happy Spring, if it ever truly arrives. Team Central Science students are wrapping up their study of the human body with the Respiratory and Digestive Systems. They are then required to take a comprehensive human body exam. A study guide will be provided with adequate time to prepare for this important assessment. Look for information at the end of April via planners or Mrs. Werner's text messages. We will then move on to study Earth Science!

Illing Parents and Guardians,

The end of the year is almost upon us! Students have been working hard in Language Arts building a solid foundation of essay writing and verbal persuasive skills. Their vocabulary and grammar skills have improved tremendously throughout the year. We will continue to address these areas of persuasiveness, vocabulary, and grammar as we close out the year. Students spent a lot of time reading and dissecting non-fiction over the last quarter. This quarter we will spend time analyzing the arguments of others. How do they influence us? How do they deceive us? What makes them convincing? Students will be able to take these skills with them to help them navigate the tricky congested landscape of modern influence. With so many people and sources vying for their attention, the goal is to get students to be able to quickly make smart decisions using critical thinking and common sense. Thank you for all you do, and all you have done, to help them throughout their 7th grade journey.

Sincerely,

Mr. Morsbach

Ms. Burdacki's language arts classes are currently finishing up projects and essays on *A Long Walk to Water*. For the fourth term, our studies will focus on writing argument essays and reading in literature circles. Continue to encourage your children to read 20-30 minutes per night at home! Thanks for all that you do.

Hello again. We are finishing our journey of Japan, the Koreas, and the region of China. The students were fascinated by the technological advances of Japan. They learned the people of Japan maximize the success of their economy by their strong work ethic. Students also came to the realization that they would rather live in South Korea vs. North Korea. The fourth and final quarter has just begun. I hope you and your family are enjoying the Illing experience. Encourage your child to finish the school year strong. Mr. Menefee



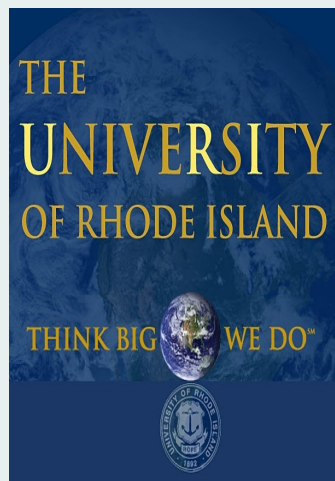
TEAM PRINCETON

Science is continuing our exploration of how the Earth, Moon, and Sun move in space to create the seasons, phases of the Moon, and day and night that we experience on Earth. This is a surprisingly challenging concept, because we are trying to represent a very large three-dimensional phenomenon within the classroom. We are utilizing a variety of models to help us learn the concepts. After wrapping up this unit, we look forward to undertaking a research project and the Mousetrap Car engineering task.

Spring is finally here! Algebra classes are finishing their unit on polynomials and fractional exponents and will be very quickly moving into factoring and graphing/solving quadratic equations. Connected Math students are busy working on a short unit involving bivariate data and will then be moving onto symmetry and transformations of objects and shapes.

In American History we are studying the formation of our national government. It's pretty exciting to learn about the series of heated debates and compromises that eventually led to the foundation of our government – our Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Next, we head west to looking for land and opportunity. The adventure these pioneers experienced help shape the rough and ready spirit of the West.

In Language Arts, classes have finished exploring themes in The Giver, by Lois Lowry, and will move on to a unit on writing an argumentative essay. Using research on organized sports in public schools, students will learn to annotate texts, take useful notes, and organize ideas into a coherent argument either supporting or refuting the idea of having organized sports teams in public high schools. In addition, we will be moving into our studies of the Holocaust by exploring books like Night, by Elie Wiesel and the play based on the diary of Anne Frank.

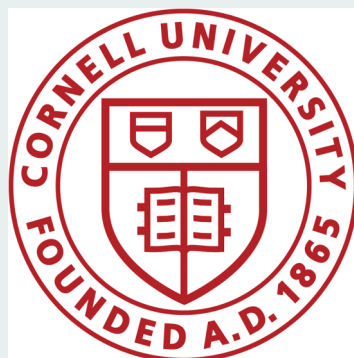


TEAM URI

URI had its second team day on March 11. Students participated in Minute to Win It activities. These activities enhanced problem solving skills and creativity. The winners were: Noodling Around: Kayla Chartier, Rapid Fire: Earl Hairston, Stack Attack: Caleb Benegyani, Junk in the Trunk: Elliot McDonald and Chandelier: Herukhuti Amen-Ra. Also, we would like to congratulate the students involved in the battle of the books (Drianah Henry, Austin Palmer, Kate Shaw-Mumford, Jada Tasby, Brennan Ruganis, Lorenzo Valsecchi, Omar Osorio, Violet Ratches, Sarah Turley, Alyssa Spina, Laella Wooley, Caleb Beneganyi, Alyssa Saynganthone). They did a great job and we are so proud. Lastly, SBAC testing is coming at the end of April. Please help to make sure your child gets a good night sleep and has a good breakfast. Homework during this week will be lighter. However, students should still be reading for 30 minutes every night.

TEAM CORNELL

Team Cornell--March 2015 Newsletter



Students are completing reading *The Giver* in **Language Arts with Mrs. Gohla and Ms. Botting**. We have dealt with themes such as taking a stand against injustice, the power of choice and recognizing one's own social responsibility. Recognizing theme and applying it to other facets (like movies, literature and real life) is an important skill that students will need for high school. Language Arts students have also been working on their argument writing, focusing on the Six Traits. After April vacation, we will be moving on to our Holocaust unit. Students will read many different selections of literature from this period in history and complete a research-based project. This is an intense and challenging, but extremely interesting and relevant unit.

Reminders for Parents/Guardians: Team Cornell has Homework Club every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday of the week. Students can find calendars in team teacher's classrooms that show what teacher is staying after on each day. Please also remember to check your child's planner. This is an important tool that should be utilized each and every day, every class period.

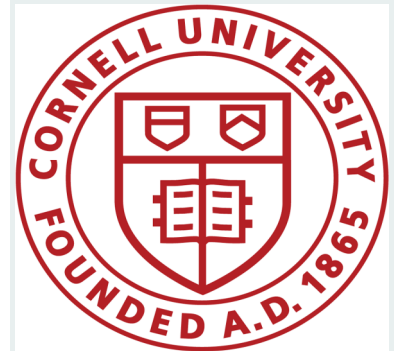
TEAM CORNELL CONT'D

Mrs. Brisee's Math classes completed units on linear equations, volume and functions. All are in alignment with Common Core Standards. SBAC testing for the 8th grade is behind us and we will continue the curriculum for the 4th quarter by studying bivariate data, transformations, and systems of equations. Algebra class has completed the units on polynomials and will move on to quadratics. There will be a Final exam at the end of the school year, so students must hold on to notes, pertinent papers and worksheets to assist in the studying process. As always, any math student who finds the material challenging should make arrangements to stay for extra help. Mrs. Brisee is available before school and most days after school.

SMILE! Students in **Mrs. Schneider's Science** classes are demonstrating their knowledge of genetics in a class project by creating their own Smiley Face (due April 10). And, because students need to use technology, we have drawn using another Google program. After a genetics assessment, students will be presented with human physiology and human reproduction. All families should have received a letter explaining the Connecticut required curriculum. SCIENCE RULES!

In **Mr. Bebyn's Social Studies** classes we have just finished our study of the American revolution and will be working on a DBQ (Document Based Question). They will be given nine Primary Source documents that they will read and respond to questions. Upon the completion of the documents, students will use information taken from these documents to write an essay which will answer the question: "Was the American Revolution justified?" We will then start looking at how this new country created a government through the establishment of the U.S. Constitution.

On Wednesday, March 18, 2015, some of the **ELL** students in **Mrs. Parra's** class went to Chester, CT. We visited different galleries. We saw beautiful pictures, a powerful waterfall, and old objects. One of the exhibits we visited was called "The Average Joe Photo Show". These are photographs that are taken with a mobile device, like a smartphone or tablet. This year, the photo show highlights people helping each other. Anyone can take a photo and go to the webstie averagejoephotoshow.com, read the information and upload up to twelve photos. Maybe one of your photos will be chosen to be put on display in the gallery in Chester. They will also be sold and you could earn some money!



TEAM TUFTS



With the SBAC Testing upon us and parent conferences just a fond memory now, the months of the last quarter promise to be exciting for Tufts geographers. Students continue to learn more about the impact of the Chinese government on its people and its future. Students look forward to creating their Social Studies contribution to the Family History Museum presentation: a Family Map Crest, which is a Japanese cutting activity project. Students will end the year studying the Middle East including the spread of Islam, the geographic features of the region, and regional conflicts and current events.

In Language Arts, Mrs. Bombria's classes are continuing their studies through fiction, non-fiction articles and their SIR novels. Using these texts as a foundation, we are examining literary elements, figurative language, and making connections. We will continue our most recent unit of study, "Reading Informational Texts and Argument Writing" in the coming months. One way to assist your child with this unit is to practice this skill- in and out of the classroom- using evidence to support their arguments.

Just a reminder... there is homework every night! In addition to other assignments, your child is required to read 20++ minutes every evening. Students have been taught that part of an effective strategy to test taking is to build your stamina/endurance to sit and stay focused. If students are reading each night for 45-60 minutes without losing concentration they will be that much closer to successfully being ready for the many tasks ahead that require focus and stamina. Your assistance in providing quiet reading areas and encouragement continue to be greatly appreciated.

Our Family History Museum date is quickly approaching. (I am waiting for the June 11th date to be officially confirmed by Central Office.) Please continue to work with your children at home on their family history. We will be creating poems, stories, and presentations for students to share the evening of the event as well as to take home. It is always a special evening together. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating our diverse families!

I would like to stress the importance of staying healthy and our children being ready to give 100% every day. Getting plenty of rest and eating a healthy, substantial breakfast along with receiving positive words of encouragement, and fresh air exercise can help your child reach his/her full potential. There are only a few more months of 2014-2015 school year left-(can you believe how fast this year went?) We need to be at 100 percent and to finish strong.

TEAM TUFTS CONT'D

During the month of February, students in Miss Gill's class finished reading Mildred Taylor's "The Well" and then began work on learning how to develop in-depth argumentative essay pieces grounded in research and evidence. Students wrote family stories based on their own personal experiences and their familial background as part of the larger Family History Museum project. In March, students completed writing essays for the CHET contest concerning how they will change the world after they finish college.

In April, the students will begin reading Walter Dean Myers' novel, *Monster*. They will also continue their study of Greek and Latin word roots throughout the month.

In math students have started the next unit on Data and Statistics, in which they will be creating and analyzing different forms of data. In Pre-Algebra students will be working on a Unit in Linear Relationship. In this unit students will be learning about slope and linear functions. After School help is available by appointment.

The Team Tufts scientists will be wrapping up their study of the human body. Students did a wonderful job at completing an investigation of what might cause a change in heart rate. This was typed as a formal lab report using Microsoft Office tools to create data tables and graphs.

This spring our scientists will be studying the earth's changing surface. We will also be looking at earthquakes and volcanoes. Students will investigate the *Circle of Fire and how it relates to earthquake/volcano locations*.

Plans are in the works for our trip to Lake Compounce Amusement Park in June. More details will follow soon. Students need to make sure that they continue to practice the Illing STARS behaviors and dress according to Illing school dress code.

TEAM YALE



In Mr. Diaz's 7th grade language arts and 8th grade language arts classes students are currently immersed in Unit 3: What's the Big Idea? During this unit students are learning about how to read, take notes on and summarize informational texts. Students will also be writing essays in which they answer the question "How will I change the world after college?"

In 7th grade mathematics students are finishing up a unit on ratios and proportions. After break we will be moving into a unit on statistics and data. We will be talking about: mean, median and mode of data sets as well as constructing line plots.

In 8th grade mathematics students are finishing up a unit on function and will be moving into a unit on data. In the data unit students will be graphing data in different ways including: line plots and scatter plots. Students will also be comparing the graphs to see which one shows a better relationship and correlation.

In Mr. Vickers's 8th grade Social Studies classes students are learning about the constitution and the Bill of Rights. Students will be writing about "cruel and unusual punishment".

In 7th grade students are studying China and international economics and where their shoes come from.



TEAM YALE CONT'D

LEARNING WITH MR. PARKER Grade 8 ELA

Helloooooooo Yale family!!!

I am happy to announce that students have been industrious and have zoned in on building vocabulary and active reading skills while enjoying a variety of both fiction and nonfiction literature! We completed our Craft and Structure Unit and have jumped into a focus on main idea! While students have had the freedom to enjoy self-selected novels, we are also actively engaged in reading a class novel titled We Beat The Streets. As we enjoy this autobiography and the wonderful life lessons that are embedded in the story, we will also focus on building our paraphrasing and summarizing skills! In regards to writing, students continue to take part in Writer's Workshop and have focussed on studying and practicing a variety of writing traits for the purpose of strengthening their overall writing. Our current focus is argumentative essay writing and incorporating researched information to support claims within an argument! As we move forward, I would like to remind students to utilize their agendas as well as Homework Club to stay on top of their assignments. I also encourage families to ask their children what they are learning about and to monitor their child's independent reading. Feel free to contact me at any time for any comments or questions. I leave you with this quote...

"Every setback is an opportunity for a comeback!"

Peace. Love. Parker

TEAM DARTMOUTH



Homework club will continue to officially meet on Thursdays until the school late bus stops running. As always, students will still be able to make arrangements, on an individual basis, with their teachers to get extra help after school on other days. Also, school supplies are wanting. Help your child stay on task and be successful by replenishing pens and pencils. Most importantly, our recent town meeting stressed to the students that we should be striving for a strong finish both academically and behaviorally as the year closes.

Mrs. Avakian reports: The students are investigating the history, culture and economics of the Asian region. The students will be developing their skills in understanding and interpreting the variety of perspectives in the surrounding region. We will then finish the year investigating the history, culture and economics of the Middle Eastern region. Included in our study of the Middle Eastern Region is a mini unit on economics and oil which incorporates concepts of managing energy resources, supply & demand, and limited resources. Students will continue to use their prior knowledge and improve their skills in interpreting and comparing a variety of types of maps for the Middle Eastern region, primary sources and artifacts.

Mrs. Martindale reports: In Pre-Algebra we are launching into Linear Relationships. This unit's content will be used in all their remaining math classes until they graduate high school! I know they will learn to love $y = mx + b$. This unit has an interesting "stained glass slope" project - so be on the look out for that towards the end of the unit. In my 7th grade math classes we are ending the year with one of my favorite units: Statistics and Probability. We will be playing "games" and determining if the probability of winning is equal for both players. We will also be analyzing different data sets and making conclusions.

Ms. Nobilio and Ms. Estanislau report: We have been busy working on argumentative writing, which is an important type of essay writing for all students. As we continue with our writing experiences, a focus will also include conventions. Soon we will be reading [The Running Dream](#), a novel that is a favorite of many.

Team 7B science students are continuing their study of the systems of the human body. Shortly all 7th grade students will be involved in writing a formal lab report using laptop computers, constructing their own data tables and graphs to present data collected earlier on their heart rates. Stay involved and connected with your child's learning, especially with a strong push to the end of the school year. Continue checking the home access site to track your child's grades. Team Dartmouth is planning a visit to a local state park to investigate some local geology, as well as being involved in some team activities, so stay tuned for upcoming details. We could always use some parent chaperones for this experience as well. Is winter over yet?

TEAM UCONN



In Mr. Kienle's class we will be concluding our study of the Holocaust and moving toward our next novel, *The Outsiders*. Social Studies classes on team UCONN are delving into America's first attempts at government, ultimately ending in the United States Constitution. Social Studies classes will examine the current United States government and what it means to be a good citizen. In Math class Mr. Sitler will be teaching data analysis and continuing work on linear equations. In Mrs. Sutherland's class students will be studying and constructing bridges and trusses. Students will test their bridges and trusses for three forces: compression, tension and torsion. In Ms. Cocola's class we will be ending the year with our study of the Holocaust. Students will be reading Holocaust novels and working on a blog and website based research project.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

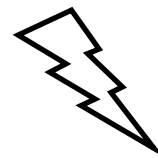
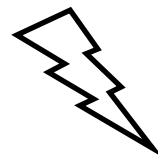
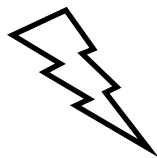
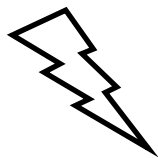
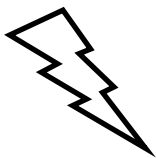
The third rotation has come to an end and Mrs. Pickett's 7th and 8th grade classes finished with a flurry of activity that connected across the curriculum.

8th graders connected to the Language Arts Holocaust Unit when they learned an amazing and true story about love, survival and the preservation of Jewish heritage. It was the story of how women in a concentration camp kept their minds and spirits alive by writing down and collecting recipes. They kept the recipes hidden on forbidden scraps of paper and preserved them like sacred documents. Although the women died in the camp, the "cookbook" survived, and thirty years later it was delivered into the hands of one of the relatives. It is an amazing testament to the power of food, tradition and family! Below is an adaptation of one of those recipes.

Czechoslovakian Bars

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups butter (1 pound), softened
 - 2 cups sugar
 - 4 large egg yolks
 - 4 cups flour
 - 2 cups chopped walnuts or pecans(optional)
 - 1 (12-ounce) container strawberry filling, jam or pie filling of choice
 - Confectioners' sugar
- Prep Time: 15 minutes
 - Cook Time: 60 minutes
 - Total Time: 75 minutes
 - Yield: About 54 Czech Bar Cookies



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

PREPARATION

1. Heat oven to 325 degrees. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add yolks and mix well. Add flour and nuts and mix until well incorporated.
2. Divide dough in half. Pat the half of dough into a 15 1/2 inch-by-10 1/2 inch jelly roll pan with slightly dampened hands, if necessary. Top with strawberry jam or pie filling
3. Crumble remaining dough over jam filling. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour or until golden brown.
4. Cut into 9 horizontal rows and 6 vertical rows (to make 54 bars) while still warm but cool completely in pan. Dust with confectioners' sugar and transfer bars to paper cups and a pretty serving tray or store tightly covered.

7th graders connected to their Social Studies classes by taking a look at West African Street food. We began the unit by looking at the different countries that make up West Africa and creating powerpoint presentations. We then searched for different recipes at this wonderful website: <http://www.foodbycountry.com/> After creating sweet potato pone and black eyed pea fritters they invited their teachers to join them for a tasting.

Ms Stepanski too has found this to be a wonderful 3rd quarter with students creating many different sewing projects. Several students finished early and this provided time to do some fun projects. One student, Liam, brought in a fleece panel that he shared with three other students. One student made a tote bag, one made a mask and Liam made a book cover.

Creativity abounded with other students making patchwork pillows. Those who had time did a 9 patch while others made a 4 patch. These pillows were colorful and well designed. Still other students made a pillow with hand embroidery on it. Alyana designed a wonderful ring bearer's pillow for her mom.

Finally Ms. Stepanski had several 8th grade students who worked hard on their gym bags that she would like to recognize. Elynnett and Landis, students who had never sewed on a machine before, stayed focused and finished their bags before the semester ended. Karee, another 8th grader, completed his own bag and, when he realized how to do it, he then went on to complete another 5 bags! In addition Karee assisted other students when they needed help finishing their project..

Ms. Stepanski wants to thank all her students for giving her one of the most productive and creative school terms ever!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Students pictured above were on a field trip to the Science Center

Ryan Bebyn

Team Princeton has nominated Ryan Bebyn! Ryan epitomizes all the characteristics deserving recognition. Personally and academically, he constantly impresses us with his ability to succeed in any endeavor. Ryan is a role model amongst his peers, always willing to assist them. His quiet calm emits a confidence that is infectious in the classroom and throughout the school. Through his assistance with Mr. McCarthy's basketball practices, Ryan has demonstrated a desire to learn the art of coaching, working tirelessly after school. Team Princeton and the Illing community are fortunate to have a student like Ryan Bebyn who represents them always with a smile.

Mitchell Bouchard

Team Cornell is proud to nominate a tremendous Illing model citizen for student of the month. An involved student, Mitchell Bouchard is heard every morning on the Illing News with always an upbeat message. He participates in many other activities offered at school and is considered a scholar by his teachers. Always willing to help another student or teacher, he adds to the class decorum and is kind and respectful towards everyone! Congratulations Mitch!

FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH CON'T

Zachary Daigle

Team Syracuse would like to nominate Zachary Daigle as February Student of the Month. Zach is a responsible and dedicated student. He is well respected amongst his peers and is a great role model. Zach can be counted on as a classroom assistant and is always willing to go the extra mile or help out wherever he can. Zach is in the Band and also part of the enrichment program here at Illing Middle School. Zach is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and serves as co-treasurer of the organization.

Julia Leon

Team Dartmouth is proud to announce Julia Leon as our February Student of the Month. Julia is an exceptional example of an Illing STARS student. Her favorite subject is Algebra because it is fast paced and keeps her mind thinking. Julia also looks forward to enrichment classes because it is thought provoking and fun to do. For extra-curricular activities, Julia is in her second year participating in Future Problem Solvers with a high goal of making a good showing at the state competition this year. For fun, Julia started new adventures this year by joining the ski club. After some lessons, she now attacks the blue and black diamond trails. Team Dartmouth is proud of her excellent and laudable character.

Emily Light

The Art Department nominates Emily G. Light for Student of the Month. Mr. Lafontaine commented on Emily's innovative ways of making things work out. She is creative, imaginative and she is one of the hardest working students I have. She is a pleasure to have in class and meets me with a smile daily.

Anthony Mazzotta

Team Tufts celebrates Anthony Mazzotta as Student of the Month. Tufts recognizing Anthony for his outgoing nature. Anthony's involved academically, with school spirit, and with his commitment to "TEAM". Anthony is kind and respectful and is blessed with a great sense of humor. He possesses an ability to multitask and maintain his learning in all subject areas while participating in a busy after school schedule. Anthony applies himself in his classes and has been a member of the Illing soccer and basketball teams. His hobbies include playing soccer, basketball and baseball on town teams, being active and playing outside and being a Red Sox fan. When asked "What makes you so successful in school?", Anthony replied, "I try hard, expect myself to succeed, and try to stay on task." Advice Anthony gives his fellow classmates is to "Stay focused and don't go on any games when you are on your Chromebook". Anthony gives credit for his success to his role models, his mom and dad.

FEBRUARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH CON'T

Tyler Roya

Team Central nominates Tyler Roya! He epitomizes what it means to be an engaged Illing student as he is kind, hardworking, smart and athletic. He is always respectful and takes pride in his academics. He says his grades are very important and he takes them seriously. His extracurricular activities include a myriad of endeavors. He enjoys playing sports and was very proud to have made the Illing Soccer and Basketball teams. In his spare time he likes to hang out with his friends and read. His favorite author is Mike Lupica. He relishes the summertime because he gets to spend quality time with his family.

Emily Reynolds

Team Yale nominates Emily Reynolds! Emily is a fantastic student and an all-around amazing human being! In class she consistently follows STARS expectations and strives to do the best she possible can. On top of her wonderful work ethic, Emily is a super creative thinker, writer and artist and is packed full with an abundance of positive energy! Anyone who knows Emily is truly a lucky person! For all of the qualities mentioned above and so much more.

Jennifer Rivard

Team UCONN's student of the month is Jennifer Rivard. Jenny is a wonderful student. She always completes her work to the best of her abilities. She exhibits the STARS ideals on a daily basis. Also, she always is willing to help out in classrooms and in the library. We are proud to have Jenny on team UCONN.

IS NEXT MONTH YOUR TURN TO BE STUDENT OF THE MONTH?

Become a STAR

S—Scholar—*is prepared / works hard / follows direction*



T—Truthful—*practices honesty / respects others' possessions*

A—Aware—*uses an indoor voice / kind & caring words / keeps hands & feet to him or herself*

R—Respectful—*makes good decisions when responding to adults / treats all property with respect / uses appropriate language*

S—Safe—*behaves appropriately / walks quietly in the halls / follows the bus rules at all times / follows all the posted rules for inside & outside of the building*



MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Aisha Affini

Team Dartmouth has chosen Aisha Affini as March's Student of the Month. Not only is Aisha a remarkable straight A student, but she demonstrates all the qualities we look for in the STARS. Aisha is well rounded and has played the violin and participated in orchestra since the fourth grade. Outside of school Aisha has studied Tae Kwon Do for over 6 years! Her favorite subjects are science and language arts because she likes hands on experimenting and is an avid reader. Aisha likes to try new things and has joined the Illing Rack Team and wants to compete in the 100 meter dash and hurdles events.

Brandon Anderson

Team Cornell has chosen Brandon Anderson as March's Student of the Month. Brandon is a diligent student who shows great maturity and patience with his peers during group work. He contributes well to discussions and makes a point of thinking before he speaks. He is a quiet leader and his peers know that his contributions are worthwhile and beneficial to all of their education!

Dale Bard

Team URI has chosen Dale Bard as March's Student of the Month. Dale is a friendly student who gets along well with other students. He completes his work in a timely manner and puts effort into everything he does. He is polite and respectful. Dale remains mostly positive and engaged in his classes.

Diya D'Costa

Team Central has chosen Diya D'Costa as March's Student of the Month. Dale exemplifies what it means to be a true STARS student. She is a wonderful addition to the Illing family as she is always present and prepared to start the school day. She is always respectful, takes pride in her academics and works extremely hard. Her extracurricular activities include a myriad of endeavors. She enjoys playing soccer and reading in her free time. She also loves art and science. Diya, you are truly an Illing Star student!!!

Kate Hwang

Team Syracuse has chosen Kate Hwang as March's Student of the Month. Kate is truly a STAR student in all aspects of her school day. She is kind and considerate to her peers and her teachers, always ready with a greeting or an up-beat word. She has a positive attitude in school, even when tasks are new or difficult, and she readily accepts any challenge sent her way by reviewing the task and then figuring out the best way to approach it. She exhibits perseverance and consistently puts forth her best effort in all activities and assignments. In the classroom, she often leads her peers in the completion of group work, doing so with grace and patience. Syracuse is thankful every day that Kate is part of our team!

MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Evan Lassen

Team Yale has chosen Evan Lassen as March's Student of the Month. Evan volunteers to help in his classes, completes all aspects of his class work, and strives to do his best. He is an eager participant in class, often breaking the silence when others won't speak. He works well with his classmates on group projects, is friendly and outgoing and has a great sense of humor. He always pushes himself and his classmates to do their best and to follow the STARS expectations. Evan looks out for his friends and is one of the best supporters during Unified Sports events.

Samantha Martin

Team Tufts has chosen Samantha Martin as March's Student of the Month. Samantha is a hard worker who takes pride in her work. Sammie stays focused in class and is always prepared. She is helpful to her peers when needed and is friendly and respectful to her teachers.

Ijahman Morgan

Team UConn has chosen Ijahman Morgan as March's Student of the Month. Ijahman is an outstanding, self-motivated young man. He strives for success each and every day. He is always respectful of his peers and all adults in the building. Ijahman displays the STARS ideals at all times. We are very proud that he is part of team UConn!

Eric Ortiz

The Art Department has chosen Eric Ortiz as March's Student of the Month. Eric is always focused on his work and always present. He comes to class on time and puts his best effort into his artwork. Though Mr. LaFontaine's attention is often called elsewhere, Eric maintains focus on his assignments. He is always patient and kind to those around him.

Greta Westfall

Team Princeton has chosen Greta Westfall as March's Student of the Month. Greta is an amazing young woman. After only arriving, she surprised us when she volunteered for the initial round of Battle of the Books. Greta demonstrated her scholarliness by reading all the books the weekend prior to the competition and was a vital member of Princeton's close loss. Her ability to blend into the Illing community speaks to her respectful nature. She has quickly made many friends. Regularly we witness her peers looking to her as an example for her ideas and high expectations that she puts upon herself. Greta's knowledge and pride in her work has raised the bar for all those around her, both students and staff. Team Princeton counts itself lucky to have received the gift of Greta's presence in our lives. She brings much to our Illing community.

APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Caroline Christopher

Team Cornell presents Caroline Christopher as Student of the Month for April. Caroline is kind, quiet and well-mannered. She is friendly to her peers and always shows the utmost respect to her teachers. Caroline is conscientious, an extremely hard worker and an avid reader. She always puts in her best effort on all of her assignments. Caroline's smile lights up a room and she has a great sense of humor. She is a true role model. Cornell is proud to have Caroline on their team!

Damian DeJesus

Team Yale presents Damian DeJesus as Student of the Month for April. Damian is an amazing young man packed full with kindness, strong work ethic, creativity, humor and focus. Damian is consistently dedicated to his classwork, participates well in class and has an awesome ability to think outside of the box and make real world connections with what it is that he is learning. Damian also has a passion for reading and learning and even completed an extra credit side project in his L.A. class while still doing a fantastic job on his regular class assignments! In addition, Damian is scholarly, truthful, aware, respectful and safe which makes him one of the biggest stars at Illing Middle School! He is consistently GREAT both as a person and as a student.

Christopher Fournier

Team Syracuse presents Christopher Fournier as Student of the Month for April. Chris consistently rises to the role of model student. He is respectful of students, teachers and administration. He completes his work early, stays on task and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society. He is actively involved in baseball at Illing as well as on town teams but he doesn't let sports interfere with academics. He is helpful in class and within the community. For all of these reasons we are happy to have Christopher on our team!

Noah Luby

Team Dartmouth presents Noah Luby as Student of the Month for April. Noah excels academically and demonstrates all the qualities we look for in the STARS. Noah is a pleasure to have in class. He is polite, helpful, and participates enthusiastically. Noah is a well-rounded individual who enjoys baseball. He will also be participating in an outreach program at Bowers Elementary School where he will teach second grade students about how to build simple machines out of Legos.

Cynthia Maheux

Team UCONN presents Cynthia Maheux as Student of the Month for April. Cynthia is an outstanding student and person. She strives daily to reach her academic potential in all classes. Furthermore, she is a role model for her peers; always displaying all of the "STARS" traits. We are truly proud to have Cynthia as a member of team UCONN, she enriches the lives of everyone she encounters.

APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Tammer Nassiff

Team Tufts presents Tammer Nassiff as Student of the Month for April. Tammer is a very scholarly young man. His outstanding academic record earned him the honor roll for all three quarters of the seventh grade so far. Tammer always shows respect and kindness for his teachers and peers with a smile on his face. He never hesitates to help out a friend. As an avid reader and an active member of the Poetry Club, Tammer expresses his love for the written word with a passion. Tammer is truly a STARS student and we look forward to hearing about Tammer's many achievements in the future.

Evelyn Bolerin Oliveras

The ELL Department presents Evelyn Bolerin Oliveras as Student of the Month for April. Evelyn is an extremely helpful student. She is also bilingual and will use her translating abilities to help fellow classmates to understand assignments. Evelyn is a mature seventh grader who will also translate for other Spanish Speaking parents when they need assistance understanding school material. She has been extremely focused on her school work lately and consistently works to the highest standard. She also is part of the Illing Latino Club Dancers and has performed most recently at the ELL Multi-cultural Night at Manchester High School. She has been recommended for the National Junior Honor Society and is applying for a summer Health Career Opportunity program through UCONN Health.

Mayesha Rahman

Team Central presents Mayesha Rahman as Student of the Month for April. Mayesha epitomizes what it means to be an upstanding Illing student. She is always present and prepared to begin the school day with a bright smile on her face. She enjoys reading and watching Netflix and Youtube in her free time. She loves cats, but is not too fond of dogs. Her favorite subject is Language Arts. She also finds time to engage in Illing extracurricular activities including Drama Club and Yearbook Club. She has worked very hard this school year and is full of pride of her accomplishments.

Alexander Shaw

Team Princeton presents Alexander Shaw as Student of the Month for April. Alex has shown academic growth over the last quarter. He has really demonstrated the skills necessary for success. Personally, he constantly impresses us with his ability to enliven any class with his wit and humor. He truly emulates team spirit for his desire to make those around him smile. We are proud of Alex for his growth and his realization of the potential we knew he was capable of achieving. Team Princeton and the Illing community are fortunate to have a student like Alex Shaw who will always bring a smile to our faces.

Deajane Sherrell

Team URI presents Deajane Sherrell as Student of the Month for April. Deajane is an excellent student who goes above and beyond in her academics. She is a dedicated dancer and gymnast. In addition, she gets along well with her peers and exemplifies the STARS motto. She is not afraid to express herself and is a true leader.

ILLING MIDDLE
SCHOOL PTA

PTA BOARD:

President—Jack Crockwell

Vice Pres—Sara Cleveland

Treasurer—Andy Kidd

Secretary—Richard Walsh

Membership—Mary Klotzer

MEETING DATES:

Wednesday—May 20, 2015

MEETINGS ARE HELD

IN THE

ILLING CAFETERIA

FROM

7:00 pm TO 8:00 pm



PTA NEWS AND INFORMATION

The Illing Middle School PTA has had a great year so far. Thanks for your support of the BUTTER BRAIDS fundraiser and the Dairy Queen Dine Out Night on March 11. Enjoy your spring!

Join us for our **FINAL** meeting of the year held in the Cafeteria, 7 – 8 pm, on Wednesday May 20, 2015.

Membership

Become part of the PTA voice. Joining PTA does not obligate you to volunteer or attend meetings. By joining you will support Illing Middle School, receive information by e-mail on upcoming events and a monthly summary of the PTA meeting discussion. You will stay informed and involved.

The cost is just \$7 for membership for one adult for the entire school year & \$12 for 2 adults (Dads Please join!). Students are welcome to join for just \$6.

CONTACT US

Email the PTSA Board at IllingMiddleSchoolPTSA@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IllingMiddleSchoolPta>

Visit the Illing Middle School Web Site: <http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=612>

From the Literacy and Numeracy Coaches...

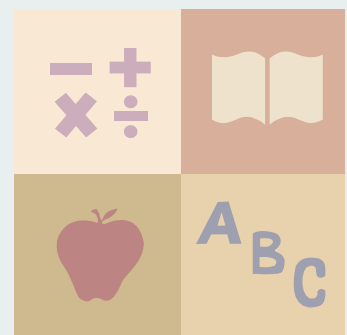
Danielle Maguire, Claudia Millette, Paige LePage

Eighth grade students have completed the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Results will show student achievement and progress toward mastery of the Common Core State Standards. In addition, the assessment will help to identify strengths and limitations in relation to the Common Core State Standards. This will provide an opportunity to find areas for potential improvement so we can better serve all students. Seventh grade students will be testing during the week of April 27th through May 21st. Please encourage your child to try their best.

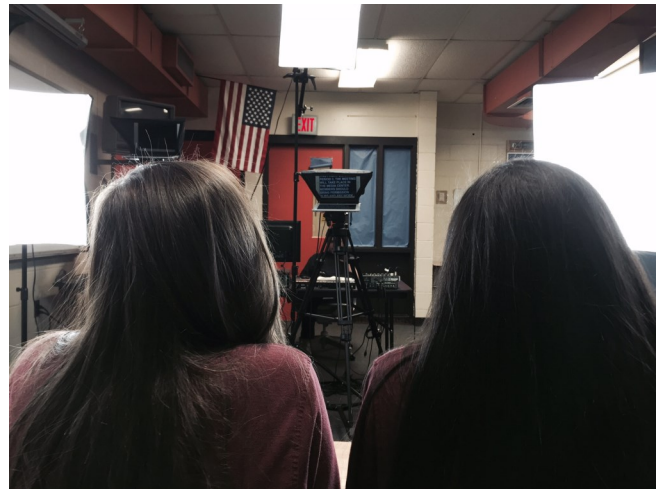
Both teachers and students were well prepared. Teachers were given training in the administration of the test, while all students were given the opportunity to participate in a practice test. The practice test provided an opportunity to become familiar with the technology as well as the test format.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment is just one of many ways student progress is monitored throughout the school year.

Should you have any questions or would like to try the practice test, please go to www.smarterbalanced.org.



TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION



Illing Studios is finally operational, and we will begin producing a daily morning news program sometime in February. We are still looking for reporters for our after school program. Students will learn how to write, shoot and edit packages that will be broadcast during the morning news. If any students are interested in joining, they should see Mr. Spada in room 116.

Mr. Spada's second semester Media Production class ended with students creating public service announcements about a topic that is important to them. These videos ranged in topics from anti-bullying, anti-smoking, acceptance, saying no to drugs, getting involved and more. Mr. Spada's third semester classes have just started and students are learning the basics of editing and video production. Students will begin creating music videos in February.

MUSIC EDUCATION

March was Music in Our Schools month. Illing was well represented by three 7th grade students who by audition were accepted and participated in the All Eastern Region Music Festival held at Rockville High School. Under the direction of respected guest conductors, Katherine Miner (viola), Sarah Turley (violin) and Emily Christensen (flute) rehearsed for two days and performed very high levels of orchestra and band literature with students from the eastern region of CT. Check out the Illing website for pictures.

On March 12th every cellist grades 4-12 spent the day at Manchester High School making music together and refining their instrumental techniques under the direction of master teachers. Through this creative collaboration all will bring their skills back to the school ensembles and made lasting connections with fellow Manchester Musicians.

Our own music ensembles busily prepared for our townwide band, orchestra, and choral concerts on April 7th (orchestra), April 8th (Band), and April 9 (Chorus). Mark your calendar for our Spring concerts. **May 14th - Chorus and June 4th - Band and Orchestra.** *Thank you for supporting our musicians' efforts to build ensembles - the essence of collaboration...many come together as one.*

Speaking of coming together, many students have been taking advantage of the **Illing Conservatory**: keyboard, guitar and recorder players in Music Survey stay, band and orchestra students log in practice minutes, and even Manchester High School students return to Illing and find room 122 a place that is safe and welcoming to practice and make music.

In conclusion, in honor of **Music in Our Schools** month check out a few of the quotes that were shared daily with our school, as well as a link from **VH1 - Save the Music** to find out about the benefits of music education and our children's developing brain.

<http://www.vh1savethemusic.org/why-music/benefits-to-the-brain>

March is Music in Our Schools Month and here is what **Eminem** thinks about music: *"If people take anything from my music, it should be motivation to know that anything is possible as long as you keep working at it and don't back down."*

March is Music in Our Schools Month and here is what **Maya Angelou** thinks about music: *"Find a beautiful piece of art. If you fall in love with Van Gogh or Matisse ...or if you fall love with the music of Coltrane, the music of Aretha Franklin, or the music of Chopin - find some beautiful art and admire it, and realize that that was created by human beings just like you, no more human, no less."*